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THE AUTOMOBILE

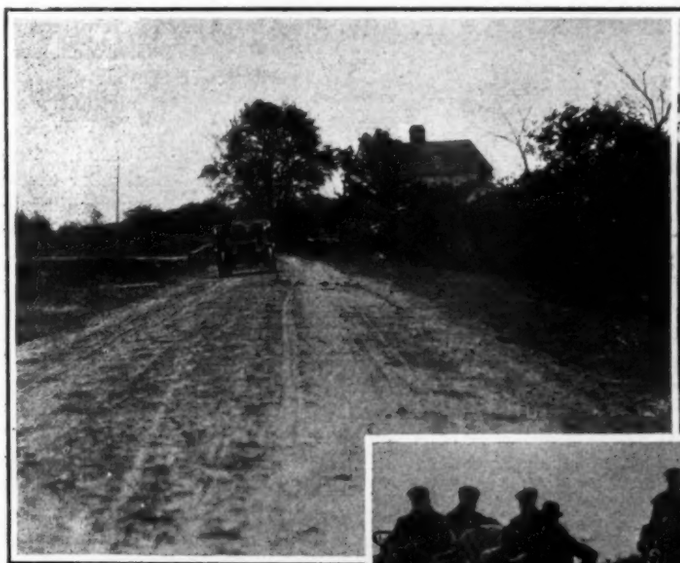
WEEKLY — NEW YORK—SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1904—CHICAGO — 10 CENTS

Road Posting and Inspection

SYSTEMATIC work has been entered upon by the Rhode Island Automobile Club, having headquarters in Providence, to remove one of the chief causes of annoyance in touring. The uncertainty that constantly harasses the mind of the road user as to the right road to follow to reach a given place, the exact distance to the next town, the character of the road surface, the safety or danger of a hill that winds out of sight at the bottom, the presence of railroad crossings, condemned bridges, washouts and other dangers frequently encountered at unexpected places on unfamiliar roads and the helpless feeling that surges over one, sometimes, in case the most trifling repair is required and there is no means of knowing where to find the nearest repair shop and supply station—the substitute for the old-time blacksmith shop—these are to be changed to complacent enjoyment of the scenery, the unalloyed charm of exhilarating motion and the constant satisfaction of definite knowledge at all times on the points mentioned, by the erection of guide boards and sign posts at frequent intervals along the better highways of the State. The guide boards will indicate not only the direction to be followed from one place to another, and the distance, but also the best route and the most important characteristic of the road—whether hilly, sandy, rocky; the sign posts will be placed at the side of the road in the neighborhood of dangerous hills, turns, and unusual obstructions to give the traveler warning in time, and will point the way at points where supplies and repairs can be obtained nearby.

Several years ago when the Rhode Island Division of the League of American Wheelmen was in a flourishing condition, the officers and members of that organization did commendable work in obtaining for the traveling public a system of road signs which had long been needed in the vicinity of Providence. Signs erected at the expense of the wheelmen at that time frequently convey to-day the only information readily to be obtained by those who use the roads of the State. The Rhode Island Automobile Club has taken up the work where it was left by the wheelmen. Guide boards, signed by the club, have been posted in various parts of the South County, and give material aid to the members of the fraternity who have occasion to use the highways in the vicinity of Narragansett Pier. It is expected that the work of the club will be carried out thoroughly and systematically throughout the State and will give to Rhode Island for the first time in its history road signs on a par with those of her sister States.

The club is greatly encouraged in the prosecution of this very practical and



A PIECE OF STATE ROAD.



LOCATING A DANGER SIGN.



COMMISSIONERS INSPECT ROAD ASSISTED BY CLUB.